

Serial No. 10/750,996
Docket No. SHE0065.00

REMARKS

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I. The Restriction Requirement:

The Examiner has required restriction to one of the following inventions under 35 U.S.C. §121:

I. Claims 1-37, drawn to a method for preparing a polymer conjugate (classified in class 528, subclass 489);

II. Claim 38, drawn to a polymer conjugate composition (classified in class 528, subclass 425);

III. Claims 39-44, drawn to a composition comprising a water-soluble polymer covalently attached to a maleamic group (classified in class 528, subclass 363);

IV. Claims 45-64, drawn to a chemically stable composition, classified in class 528, subclass 322); and

V. Claim 65, drawn to a protein derivatized with a water-soluble polymer (classified in class 528, subclass 420).

II. Response to the Restriction Requirement:

In response, Applicants hereby elect Group I, claims 1-37, *with traverse*.

Traverse is premised on the ground that a combined search of all three Groups does not impose an undue burden on the Examiner. As stated in the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure ("MPEP"),

[i]f the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions.

See M.P.E.P. Section 803.

Here, all of the Groups have been assigned to the same initial classification (i.e., class 528), thereby suggesting that a search of potential art in this class is simultaneously useful for all of the Groups. In view of the above, it is therefore believed that search and examination of the

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entire application can be made without serious burden to the Examiner. Consequently, reconsideration and removal of the requirement for restriction are respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion:

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the all of pending claims satisfy the requirements of patentability and are therefore in condition for allowance. Consequently, a prompt mailing of a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (650) 620-5506.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 20, 2006

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